

CLAIMS LISTING

5 1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents comprising a first processing element, a second processing element, a reasoning element, and a database, wherein:

i) said first processing element is configured to convert electronic documents into files;

10 ii) said first processing element is configured to provide the files to a second processing element;

iii) said second processing element is configured to receive said files and extract predetermined information from the files;

15 iv) said second processing element is further configured to provide said extracted predetermined information to said reasoning element;

v) said database is configured to provide input to said reasoning element;

20 vi) said reasoning element is configured to employ a set of rules to automatically extract metadata from the files by employing the extracted predetermined information and the input from the database; and

vii) said reasoning element provides an output of metadata.

25 2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 1, wherein said files are substantially format invariant data files.

30 3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 1, wherein said predetermined information is substantially spatial layout facts.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 1, wherein the second processing element and said database simultaneously input to the reasoning element.

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5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 1, wherein said set of rules is updated.

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6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 1, wherein said metadata is substantially comprised of title, author, affiliation, author affiliation, and table of contents.

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7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 1, wherein said metadata is provided to a user interface.

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8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 1, wherein said metadata is provided to a storage medium.

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9. (Previously Presented) A method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents providing a first processing element, a second processing element, a reasoning element, and a database and comprising the steps of:

- a) employing said first processing element to convert electronic documents to files;
- b) further employing said first processing element to provide the files to said second processing element;

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- c) employing said second processing element to receive said files and extract predetermined information from the files;
- d) further employing said second processing element to provide extracted predetermined information to said reasoning element;
- 5 e) employing said database to provide input to said reasoning element;
- f) employing a set of rules in said reasoning element to automatically extract metadata from the files by employing the extracted predetermined information and the input from the
- 10 database; and
- g) providing an out put of metadata from said reasoning element.

10. (Previously Presented) The method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 9, wherein said

15 files are substantially format invariant data files.

11. (Previously Presented) The method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 9, wherein said predetermined information is substantially spatial layout facts.

12. (Previously Presented) The method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 9, wherein the second processing element and the database simultaneously input to the reasoning element.

13. (Previously Presented) The method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 9, wherein said set of rules is updated.

14. (Previously Presented) The method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 9, wherein said

metadata is substantially comprised of title, author, affiliation, author affiliation, and table of contents.

5 15. (Previously Presented) The method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 9, wherein said metadata is provided to a user interface.

10 16. (Previously Presented) The method for automatically extracting metadata from electronic documents as set forth in claim 9, wherein said metadata is provided to a storage medium.